

House Resolution No. 2460

Whereas, Trinity Management will sponsor the 2003 Juneteenth Celebration Day June 13-15, 2003, in the City of St. Joseph, Missouri, which will feature the Juneteenth Heritage Parade on June 14; and

Whereas, the Juneteenth Celebration is the only holiday that celebrates the freeing of Texas slaves more than two and one-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued in 1865; and

Whereas, President Abraham Lincoln officially issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, while Texas history has documented and recorded this announcement on June 19, 1865, when General Gordon Granger along with 1,800 military troops arrived in Galveston and proclaimed the State of Texas to be under the authority of the United States; and

Whereas, Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom, emphasizes education and achievement while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas, Americans of all colors, creeds, cultures, religions, and countries-of-origin share in a common love of and respect for "freedom" as well as a determination to protect their right to freedom; and

Whereas, for many years, families have celebrated the Juneteenth holiday with barbecues, baseball games, festivals, rodeos, picnics, pageants, and parades that have become major events and have attracted thousands of Americans; and

Whereas, the Juneteenth celebration is sought to bring together the citizenry of St. Joseph, community leaders, and volunteers interested in celebrating and learning the history of the event, now a state holiday in many states, and represents the joy of freedom and the chance for a new beginning for all people:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join together with the City of St. Joseph in welcoming and encouraging all Americans and Show-Me State residents to participate in Juneteenth activities and to learn more about this important period in our country's rich history; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for presentation during the 2003 Juneteenth Celebration Day in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Ed Wildberger
District No. 27

Representative Maurice Lawson
District No. 29

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2460, adopted May 5, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker